

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/597,960

Examiner

MANSOUR M. SAID

Applicant(s)

SILVERSTEIN, D. AMNON

Art Unit

2673

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 5/19/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3,5-7 and 9-19.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 20 June 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Gortler P. Hugh on 5/27/05 and 6/1/05.

2. The application has been amended as follow:

Please Amend Claims 6 and 16 as follows:

6. (Currently amended) a computer mouse comprising:
a motion sensor; and a collapsible housing for the motion sensor, the collapsible housing including a resilient plastic sheet that defines outer housing walls that are foldable about fold lines to allow the housing to collapse into a relatively flat structure when a downward force is applied, the housing returning to its original shape when the downward force is removed.

16. (Currently amended) A combination comprising a mouse including a collapsible housing, the mouse sized to fit within a PCMCIA slot when the housing is fully collapsed; and a PCMCIA card for communicating with the mouse.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-3, 5-7 and 9-19 allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

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5. **Regarding to claims 1 and 16**, none of the prior art of record either singularly or in combination teach or fairly suggest a compute mouse comprising a motion sensor; and the mouse sized to fit within a PCMCIA slot when the housing is fully collapsed.

Cited reference Shimozato Hideto (JP 03-113624) teaches a mouse device comprising an upper case is pushed down against the force of a spring, movable cover slides the sliding surface of a lower case, collapses to the inner side of the case and stops at a place, where a movable shaft is brought into contact with the lower case, and the upper case is lifted upward by the operation of the spring with the lock pin removed.

However, the cited reference does not teach the claimed limitation such as “the mouse sized to fit within a PCMCIA slot when the housing is fully collapsed”.

Regarding to claims 5-6, none of the prior art of record either singularly or in combination teach or fairly suggest a computer mouse comprising: a motion sensor; and a collapsible housing for the motion sensor, the collapsible housing including a resilient plastic sheet that defines outer housing walls that are foldable about fold lines to allow the housing to collapse into a relatively flat structure when a downward force is applied, the housing returning to its original shape when the downward force is removed.

Shimozato Hideto (JP 03-113624) teaches a mouse device comprising an upper case is pushed down against the force of a spring, movable cover slides the sliding surface of a lower case, collapses to the inner side of the case and stops at a place, where a movable shaft is brought into contact with the lower case, and the upper case is lifted upward by the operation of the spring with the lock pin removed.

However, the cited reference does not teach the claimed limitation such as the mouse housing collapses into a relatively flat structure when a downward force is applied, the housing returning to its original shape when the downward force is removed.

Regarding claim 12, none of the prior art of record either singularly or in combination teach or fairly suggest a computer mouse comprising a motion sensor; a collapsible housing for the motion sensor; wherein the collapsible housing includes a rigid base and an upper portion attached to the base, the upper portion made of an elastic material that allows the housing to be collapsed, wherein the housing has deflectable mouse button area; and at least one sensor for detecting when the area is deflected, whereby deflecting the area corresponds to clicking a mouse button.

Regarding claim 14, none of the prior art of record either singularly or in combination teach or fairly suggest a computer mouse comprising a motion sensor; a collapsible housing for the motion sensor; wherein the collapsible housing including a resilient plastic sheet having fold lines that allow the housing to collapse into a relatively flat structure, a bendable strip cantilevered from the housing, and a sensor for detecting when the strip is bent, whereby bending the strip corresponds to clicking a mouse button.

Regarding claim 15, none of the prior art of record either singularly or in combination teach or fairly suggest a computer mouse comprising a motion sensor including a sensor chip and a collapsible housing for the motion sensor; the sensor chip movable between a stowed position and deployed position.

Lee (6,392,632 B1) teaches an optical mouse including a bottom surface for contacting a flat surface; bottom surface, defines a chamber having an opening. Chamber includes a ceiling

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wherein sensor from the contact surface (i.e. separate sensor from the contact surface with a minimum distance). This minimum distance is important when the device is used in a cursor control mode, which is described in greater detail.

However, the cited references do not teach the claimed limitation such as “a collapsible housing for the motion sensor and the sensor chip movable between a stowed position and a deployed position.

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Miyai Masyuki (JP 2001-034405) teaches a portable thin mouse that can be deformed into a thin shape so as to be housed in a PCMCIA CARD SLOT, and when each panel 2-5 is opened, the whole part can be deformed into a shape capable of the easy operation of the mouse button and an easy mouse moving operation.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MANSOUR M. SAID whose telephone number is (571) 272-7679. The examiner can normally be reached on MF (8:30-6:30).


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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, BIPIN SHALWALA can be reached on (571) 272-7681. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Mansour M. Said

June 1, 2005


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